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Monrovia Man, Others Charged in Motorcycle Theft Ring

Three men accused of orchestrating a theft ring that purportedly stole dozens of motorcycles for resale have been charged with more than 30 counts each, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Felipe Galicia, 40 (dob 6/22/73), of Monrovia; Daniel Hernandez, 21 (dob 2/1/92), of El Monte; and Victor Manuel Coca, 45 (dob 3/12/68), of Los Angeles, were charged Thursday in case GA091772 with one count each of unlawful vehicle identification activity, chop shop operation and receiving stolen property.

The defendants also face 31 counts of receiving stolen property, motor vehicle. The complaint includes an allegation that the crimes involve the taking of more than \$150,000.

Deputy District Attorney Alex Karkanen of the Automobile Insurance Fraud Division said Galicia and Coca pleaded not guilty during their arraignment Thursday at Los Angeles County Superior Court, Alhambra Branch. Both men return to court Jan. 24 to set a preliminary hearing date. Hernandez, who bailed out earlier, will be arraigned at a later time.

Also charged in the complaint are Reymond Robles, 39 (dob 8/4/74), of Los Angeles; Dean Richard Campa, 43 (dob 10/28/70), of Glendale; Antonio Venegas, 34 (dob 5/18/79), of Paramount; Salvador Rodriguez, 37 (dob 6/19/76), of Compton; Daneil Dejesus, 37 (dob 3/21/76), also of Compton; and Omar Gomez, 25 (dob 5/31/88), of Bell Gardens. Each faces 32 counts and could face a maximum prison sentence of 20 years, eight months.

Prosecutors said Galicia, the alleged mastermind, with Hernandez and Coca had a number of crews working for them that would purportedly scout locations to steal motorcycles. Afterward, the men would allegedly change the vehicle identification numbers of the stolen motorcycles for resale.

A three month investigation by the Task Force for Regional Auto Theft Prevention – comprised of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department and the California Highway Patrol, among others – led authorities to the alleged theft ring.

If convicted as charged, Galicia, Hernandez and Coca face a maximum sentence of 29 years, eight months in state prison.